



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ISDA applauds Governor's appointment to the State Soil Conservation Board

INDIANAPOLIS (March 16, 2016) — The [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#) (ISDA) applauds Governor Mike Pence's recent appointment of Rex Blanton to the [State Soil Conservation Board](#) (SSCB), which brings the seven member board to full capacity.

"This appointment is welcomed news for Indiana," said Ted McKinney, ISDA Director. "Rex's leadership experience and expertise in the industry makes him an excellent addition to the board, which has been vital to improving overall water quality and soil health in the state."

Blanton began his career at Connersville Utilities in 1982 as a certified wastewater operator. After working there for 20 years and obtaining a Class II Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certificate, he was then hired by Stant Manufacturing as the Assembly Production Manager, responsible for all safety training on the production floor.

Currently, Blanton is the Wastewater Training Director for the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water. Since 2010, has presented at over 100 different training sessions, assisting boards, councils and other town officials with any utility matters, and holds a Class IV Wastewater Operator Certification.

"It is truly an honor and privilege to be appointed to the SSCB," Blanton said. "Although my experience is in water and wastewater, it is extremely important to consider all aspects when striving to protect Indiana's environment. I look forward to working with the board, as well as any and all involved in completing its mission. I appreciate Governor Pence's trust in my ability to assist with such an important piece of Indiana's future."

As a member of the SSCB, Blanton will help provide guidance and coordination to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, who are responsible for protecting Indiana's soil and water resources. The SSCB also administers the Clean Water Indiana Grants Program, which is a water quality related erosion and sediment reduction program, and must hold public meetings throughout the state, among many other statutory requirements.

The next SSCB meeting will be May 17 at 9:30 a.m. in Salem, Ind., and for more information about the meeting or the board, please visit www.in.gov/isda/2361.htm.

###

ABOUT ISDA

The [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#) (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to [Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb](#), who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state

and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

Media Contact:

Ben Gavelek

Communications Director

Phone: 317.690.3303

Email: bgavelek@isda.in.gov



Indiana State Department of Agriculture • www.isda.in.gov • (317) 232-8770